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AND AFFILIATED PARTNERSHIPS

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VIA CM/ECF

Re: *RiseandShine Corp. v. PepsiCo, Inc.*, 1:21-cv-6324 (LGS)

Dear Judge Schofield:

Pursuant to Section I.G. of the Court’s Individual Practices in Civil Cases (“Individual Rules”), Defendant PepsiCo, Inc. (“PepsiCo”) respectfully submits this letter motion to maintain under seal Rise Brewing’s Letter Reply in support of its Motion to Strike the Declaration of Thomas Britven (“Brief”) (Dkt. 419; Dkt. 420 (public version)). While Plaintiff’s letter motion to seal (Dkt. 418) makes PepsiCo’s arguments in favor of sealing, PepsiCo files this letter out of an abundance of caution.

The redacted information in the Brief describes and cites to documents that PepsiCo has designated with one of the confidentiality designations under the Protective Order, and the exhibits were designated with one of the confidentiality designations under the Protective Order.

Legal Standard: While federal courts recognize a general common law right of public access to court records and proceedings, the right of access is not absolute and courts have discretion to deny such public access where appropriate. *Nixon v. Warner Commc’ns, Inc.*, 435 U.S. 589, 597-99 (1978)). “To determine whether documents should be placed under seal, a court must balance the public’s interest in access to judicial documents against the privacy interests of those resisting disclosure.” *In re Utica Mut. Ins. Co. v. INA Reinsurance Co.*, 468 F. App’x 37, 39 (2d Cir. 2012) (citing *Lugosch v. Pyramid Co. of Onondaga*, 435 F.3d 110, 119-20 (2d Cir. 2006)).

Court documents may be sealed to avert “[p]otential damage from the release of sensitive business information” and protect from the disclosure of information that may harm a business’s ability to compete in the future. *Bergen Brunswig Corp. v. Ivax Corp.*, No. 97 Civ. 2003, 1998 WL 113976, at *3 (S.D.N.Y. Mar. 12, 1998) (collecting cases); *Standard v. Fin. Indus. Regulatory Auth., Ind.*, 347 F. App’x 615, 617 (2d Cir. 2009) (affirming district court’s sealing on grounds that the party’s “interest in protecting confidential business information outweighs the qualified First Amendment presumption of public access”).

Sealing Justification: The materials sought to be sealed describe and cite to information about the financial performance of PepsiCo’s Mtn Dew Rise Energy product, which PepsiCo has designated as OUTSIDE ATTORNEYS’ EYES ONLY. More specifically: the Brief includes PepsiCo’s profit/loss data for Mtn Dew Rise Energy and discusses the methodologies employed to calculate PepsiCo’s profit/loss data for Mtn Dew Rise Energy and PepsiCo’s expert’s testimony thereon. This information is properly sealed because it is highly sensitive information which risks causing PepsiCo harm if made known to PepsiCo’s competitors. PepsiCo does not publicly report information of this type and ordinarily keeps it confidential given its competitive sensitivity. *Louis*

KIRKLAND & ELLIS LLP

December 16, 2022

Page 2

Vuitton Malletier S.A. v. Sunny Merch. Corp., 97 F. Supp. 3d 485, 511 (S.D.N.Y. 2015) (allowing information relating to financial performance to be filed under seal). Sensitive financial information of this nature is properly filed under seal. *Id.*

A list of counsel who should be granted access to the sealed material is listed in Appendix 1. PepsiCo has served the letter on Plaintiff's counsel via ECF contemporaneously with this filing.

Sincerely

s/ Lauren J. Schweitzer

Lauren J. Schweitzer

KIRKLAND & ELLIS LLP

December 16, 2022

Page 3

Appendix 1: List of Parties and Counsel

All counsel of record may have access to the filings:

Counsel for Plaintiff RiseandShine Corporation, *doing business as* Rise Brewing

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